

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY



PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 03-F-076PCT	FOR FURTHER ACTION		See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. PCT/JP2003/011914	International filing date (day/month/year) 18 September 2003 (18.09.2003)	Priority date (day/month/year) 30 September 2002 (30.09.2002)	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC B82B 3/00, H01L 21/285			
Applicant	NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR MATERIALS SCIENCE		

<p>1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of <u>3</u> sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p>3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:</p> <p>a. <input type="checkbox"/> (<i>sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau</i>) a total of _____ sheets, as follows:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis of this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> (<i>sent to the International Bureau only</i>) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) _____, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).</p> <p>4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I Basis of the report</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II Priority</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI Certain documents cited</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application</p>
--

Date of submission of the demand 29 March 2004 (29.03.2004)	Date of completion of this report 17 December 2004 (17.12.2004)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/JP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2003/011914

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____, which is language of a translation furnished for the purpose of:

- international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b))
- publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4)
- international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3)

2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on (replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report):

The international application as originally filed/furnished

the description:
pages _____, as originally filed/furnished
pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

the claims:
pages _____, as originally filed/furnished
pages* _____, as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

the drawings:
pages _____, as originally filed/furnished
pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.

3. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- the description, pages _____
- the claims, Nos. _____
- the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- the sequence listing (specify): _____
- any table(s) related to sequence listing (specify): _____

4. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

- the description, pages _____
- the claims, Nos. _____
- the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- the sequence listing (specify): _____
- any table(s) related to sequence listing (specify): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/JP03/11914

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1, 2	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims		YES
	Claims	1, 2	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1, 2	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

Document 1: JP, 7-65705, A (Canon Inc.), 10 March, 1995 (10.03.95)

Claim 1

The subject matter of claim 1 does not appear to involve an inventive step in view of document 1 cited in the ISR.

Document 1 discloses that "fine particles" are formed "on an insulator by letting the tip of a probe of a scanning tunneling microscope leave" ([0044]). Furthermore, for letting the atoms of the said tip leave, voltage pulses are used ([0046]). Moreover, as the material of the said fine particles, silver is stated ([0059]). It is considered to be obvious for a person skilled in the art to select silver as the material of the said probe when fine particles of silver are formed.

Furthermore, it is stated that "as the materials of, for example, the substrate, a wide range of materials can be used without any limitation" ([0057]). So, a person skilled in the art could have easily formed fine particles of silver on a semiconductor substrate by the method described in document 1.

Claim 2

The subject matter of claim 2 does not appear to involve an inventive step in view of document 1.

A person skilled in the art could have, as required, set the conditions of voltage pulses in the fine silver particle production method described in document 1.